



**Sterne Kessler
Goldstein Fox**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Robert Greene Sterne
Edward J. Kessler
Jorge A. Goldstein
David K.S. Cornwell
Robert W. Esmond
Robert Gene G. Durkin
Michele A. Cimbala
Michael B. Ray
Robert E. Sokohl
Eric K. Steffe
Michael Q. Lee
Steven R. Ludwig
John M. Covert
Linda E. Alcorn
Robert C. Millonig
Lawrence B. Bugalsky
Donald J. Featherstone
Michael V. Messinger

Judith U. Kim
Timothy J. Shea, Jr.
Patrick E. Garrett
Jeffrey T. Helvey
Heidi L. Kraus
Albert L. Ferro*
Donald R. Banowitz
Peter A. Jackman
Teresa U. Medler
Jeffrey S. Weaver
Kendrick P. Patterson
Vincent L. Capuano
Eldora Ellison Floyd
Thomas C. Fiala
Brian J. Del Buono
Virgil Lee Beaston
Theodore A. Wood
Elizabeth J. Haanes

Joseph S. Ostroff
Frank R. Cottingham
Christine M. Lhulier
Rae Lynn Prengaman
George S. Bardmesser
Daniel A. Klein*
Jason D. Eisenberg
Michael D. Specht
Andrea J. Kamage
Tracy L. Muller*
LuAnne M. DeSantis
Ann E. Summerfield
Tiera S. Coston
Aric W. Ledford*
Helene C. Carlson
Timothy A. Doyle*
Jessica L. Parezo
Gaby L. Longworth*

Lori A. Gordon*
Nicole D. Dretar*
Ted J. Ebersole
Jyoti C. Iyer*
Laura A. Vogel

Registered Patent Agents*
Karen R. Markowicz
Nancy J. Leith
Matthew J. Dowd
Aaron L. Schwartz
Katrina Yujian Pei Quach
Bryan L. Skelton
Robert A. Schwartzman
Teresa A. Colella
Jeffrey S. Lundgren
Victoria S. Rutherford
Michelle K. Holoubek

Robert H. DeSelms
Simon J. Elliott
Julie A. Helder
Mita Mukherjee
Scott M. Woodhouse
Michael G. Penn
Christopher J. Walsh

Of Counsel
Kenneth C. Bass III
Evan R. Smith
Marvin C. Guthrie

* Admitted only in Maryland
* Admitted only in Virginia
* Practice Limited to
Federal Agencies

IFW

August 24, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Non-Provisional Patent Application
Application No. 10/781,803; Filed: February 20, 2004
For: **Lithographic Printing with Polarized Light**
Inventors: **Baba-Ali et al.**
Our Ref: 1857.1670001

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. SKGF Cover Letter;
2. Information Disclosure Statement;
3. Form PTO-1449, listing 16 documents and enclosing 9 documents; and
4. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:
(202) 772-8855
INTERNET ADDRESS:
HOLOUBEK@SKGF.COM

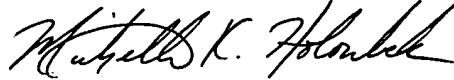
Art Unit 1752

Commissioner for Patents
August 24, 2004
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Michelle K. Holoubek
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 54,179

MKH/jmh

302922-1



THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Baba-Ali *et al.*

Appl. No.: 10/781,803

Filed: February 20, 2004

For: **Lithographic Printing with
Polarized Light**

Confirmation No.: 5186

Art Unit: 1752

Examiner: to be assigned

Atty. Docket: 1857.1670001

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- ☐ 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- ☒ 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- ☐ 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

- ☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ c. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$_____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ 4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$_____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:
- ☐ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign

application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

☐ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.

☐ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:

☒ 7. Copies of the documents are submitted herewith.

☐ 8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. _____, filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

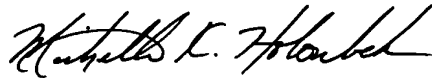
- ☒ 9. No copies of U.S. patents and patent application publications cited on the attached Form PTO-1449 are submitted in accordance with 1276 OG 55 because this application was filed after June 30, 2003.
- ☐ 10. It is expected that the examiner will review the prosecution and cited art in the parent application no(s). _____ in accordance with MPEP 2001.06(b), and indicate in the next communication from the office that the art cited in the earlier prosecution history has been reviewed in connection with the present application.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

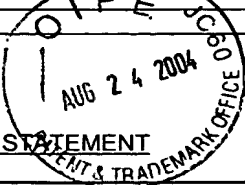


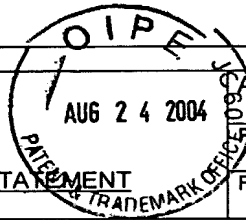
Michelle K. Holoubek
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 54,179

Date: August 24, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

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				Page 1 of 3			
FORM PTO-1449				ATTY. DOCKET NO. 1857.1670001			
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT				APPLICATION NO. 10/781,803			
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE				FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Nabila Baba-Ali			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				FILING DATE February 2, 2004			
ART UNIT 1752							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA1	5,537,260	07/16/1996	Williamson			
	AB1	5,442,184	08/15/1995	Palmer et al.			
	AC1	6,108,140	08/22/2000	Hashimoto et al.			
	AD1	5,144,362	09/01/1992	Kamon et al.			
	AE1	6,229,647 B1	05/08/2001	Takahashi et al.			
	AF1	3,917,399	11/04/1975	Buzawa et al.			
	AG1	5,436,761	07/25/1995	Kamon			
	AH1						
	AI1						
	AJ1						
	AK1						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL1	EP 1 091 252 A2	04/11/2001	Europe			X Yes No
	AM1	WO 01/22164 A1	03/29/2001	WIPO			Yes X No
	AN1						Yes No
	AO1						Yes No
	AP1						Yes No
OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
	AR	1	"Understanding the Forbidden Pitch Phenomenon and Assist Feature Placement," Shi et al., SPIE Vol. 4689: 985-996 (2002).				
	AS	1	"Forbidden Pitches for 130nm Lithography and Below," Socha et al., SPIE Vol. 4000: 1140-1155 (2000).				
	AT	1	A. K. Wong, <u>Resolution Enhancement Techniques in Optical Lithography</u> , SPIE Press, pages 28-29				
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED		
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.							



FORM PTO-1449

AUG 24 2004

PATENT DOCKET NO.

1857.1670001

APPLICATION NO.

10/781,803

FIRST NAMED INVENTOR

Nabila Baba-Ali

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

FILING DATE

February 2, 2004

ART UNIT

1752

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA2						
	AB2						
	AC2						
	AD2						
	AE2						
	AF2						
	AG2						
	AH2						
	AI2						
	AJ2						
	AK2						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL2						Yes No
	AM2						Yes No
	AN2						Yes No
	AO2						Yes No
	AP2						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AR	2	"Impact of Illumination Coherence and Polarization on the Imaging of Attenuated Phase Shift Masks," Ma et al., SPIE Vol. 4346: 1522-1532 (2001).
	AS	2	"Solutions for Printing Sub 100nm Contacts with ArF," Graupner et al., SPIE Vol. 4691: 503-514 (2002).
	AT	2	"The Vortex Via Mask: Making 80nm Contacts With a Twist!," Levenson et al., SPIE Vol. 4889 (2002).

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.

FORM PTO-1449

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTATTY. DOCKET NO.
1857.1670001APPLICATION NO.
10/781,803FIRST NAMED INVENTOR
Nabila Baba-AliFILING DATE
February 2, 2004ART UNIT
1752**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA3						
	AB3						
	AC3						
	AD3						
	AE3						
	AF3						
	AG3						
	AH3						
	AI3						
	AJ3						
	AK3						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION
	AL3						Yes No
	AM3						Yes No
	AN3						Yes No
	AO3						Yes No
	AP3						Yes No

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

	AR	<u>3</u>	"Overcoming the Resolution Challenge Using Special Illumination Techniques to Print 50/50 nm Nested Contact Holes at 157 nm Wavelength," Baba-Ali et al., SPIE Vol. 5040: 1352-1363 (2003).
	AS	<u>3</u>	
	AT	<u>3</u>	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.